

REMARKS

Claims 1, 30, 31, and 36-82 have been canceled. Claims 2-29 and 32-35 are now pending.

Applicants provide the following:

1. Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to application serial number 10/751,043, which is currently under examination. The current application claims priority to the parent application of application serial number 10/751,043 – that is application serial number 09/750,595 (US Patent No. 6,790,228). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner should coordinate the examination of the current application with 10/751,043. The same holds true for the other cross-referenced applications as the Examiner may, for example, want to consider double patenting issues and the like.

2. The sole ground for rejection of claim 10 was provisional non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over co-pending application serial number 10/856,984 (currently being examined by the same Examiner). Applicants assume that the rejection of claim 10 is based on claim 80 of application serial number 10/856,984. Claim 80 of application serial number 10/856,984 was canceled in the office action response dated May 5, 2008. As a result of cancellation of claim 80, applicants assume that the rejection of claim 10 is now moot. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On the chance that the rejection under provisional non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over co-pending application serial number 10/856,984 still stands, applicants are co-filing herewith a terminal disclaimer. Applicants give the examiner permission to enter the terminal disclaimer only if the rejection still stands despite cancellation of claim 80 of application serial number 10/856,984.

3. As indicated in paragraph 2, above, applicants believe claim 10 is now allowable. Claims 2-9, 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 10. Accordingly, they too are now allowable for at least the same reason claim 10 is allowable.

4. Claim 30 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 13, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Instead of placing claim 30 in independent form, base claim 13 has been amended to include all of the elements and limitations of claim 30. In turn, claim 30 has been canceled. As a result, independent claim 13 is now allowable. Claims 14-29 and 32-35 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.


In sum, independent claims 10 and 13 are believed to be in allowable form. The remaining dependent claims depend from claims 10 and 13. Removal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues or concerns, applicants respectfully request a telephone call to the undersigned attorney of record to resolve such issues, perhaps by examiner amendment, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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